

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

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R 180834Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8613

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMIN DIV INT OPERATIONS BALTIMORE MD

INFO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

UNCLAS BERN 0218

FRANKFURT FOR MR DUDAK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CFED, SZ

SUBJECT: SOCIAL SECURITY - VALIDATION SURVEY SWITZERLAND

REF: BERN 4857, 4906 AND PREVIOUS

1. ON JAN 14 THE EMBASSY RECEIVED LETTER FROM FEDERAL OFFICE
FOR SOCIAL INSURANCE OFFICIALLY CONFIRMING APPROVAL BY
FEDERAL COUNCIL OF SSA SURVEY UNDER FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

A) QUESTIONING OF BENEFICIARIES BY SSA OFFICIAL MUST BE
HELD IN PRESENCE OF SWISS OBSERVER TO ASSURE 1) NO DURESS
IS EXERTED AND 2) NO QUESTIONS INVOLVING CERTAIN SWISS
ECONOMIC OF POLITICAL MATTERS ARE RAISED.

B) OFFICIAL OF SWISS TRUST COMPANIES, RECOMMENDED OR
APPROVED BY THE SWISS FEDERAL OFFICE, MUST BE APPOINTED
AS OBSERVER AND WILL BE CONSIDERED AS REPRESENTATIVE OF
SWISS FEDERAL OFFICE. ARRANGEMENTS WITH TRUST COMPANIES
RE ADMINISTRATIVE PARTICULARITIES AND COSTS MUST BE
MADE BY SSA.

C) INTERVIEWS MUST NOT BE HELD ON USG PREMISES. FEDERAL
OFFICE SUGGESTS EITHER DOMICILE OF BENEFICIARY OR BRANCH
OFFICES OF TRUST COMPANIES LOCATED IN PRINCIPAL CITIES
THROUGHOUT SWITZERLAND. BENEFICIARY HAS OPTION TO SELECT
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SITE OF INTERVIEW.

D) WORDING OF NOTIFICATION TO BENEFICIARY SHOULD BE APPROVED BY FEDERAL OFFICE AND MUST INCLUDE INFO ABOUT PURPOSE OF SURVEY, THE VOLUNTARINESS OF THEIR PARTICIPATION AND THE PRESENCE OF SWISS REPRESENTATIVE AT INTERVIEW AS WELL AS NAMES OF SSA OFFICIAL CONDUCTING SURVEY AND TRUST COMPANY. A LIST OF BENEFICIARIES TO BE QUESTIONED IS TO BE FURNISHED THE FEDERAL OFFICE FOR SOCIAL INSURANCE.

E) SSA OFFICIAL, IN CONDUCTING SURVEY, MAY NOT DIRECTLY CONTACT THIRD PERSONS OR SWISS OFFICIALS. ATTESTATIONS FROM EMPLOYERS, SWISS OFFICES ETC. MUST BE FURNISHED BY SUBJECT BENEFICIARY. FEDERAL OFFICE WILL ASSIST IN EXCEPTIONAL CASES. ONLY ONE SURVEY MAY BE CONDUCTED. BEGINNING AND TERMINATION DATES OF SURVEY MUST BE REPORTED TO FEDERAL OFFICE.

2. EMBASSY CONTACTED SEVERAL TRUST COMPANIES SOME OF WHICH WILL BE ABLE TO DELEGATE ONE OF THEIR OFFICIALS FOR THE SURVEY. ANTICIPATED CHARGES APPROX. SFR. 50.00 (\$15.00) PER HOUR, PLUS EXPENSES, DURING BUSY SEASON. AFTER ABOUT JUNE THEY ARE READY ARRANGE FOR A FLAT FEE, LOWERING HOURLY FEE TO APPROX. SFR. 40.00 OFFICE FACILITIES OFFERED BY TRUST COMPANIES IN VARIOUS LARGER SWISS CITIES. EMBASSY IS ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE FOR AN OFFICER ASSIGNED TO EACH BRANCH OFFICE TO BE APPOINTED IN ORDER TO REDUCE COSTS.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: SSA IS REQUESTED TO CONFIRM PLANS TO CONDUCT SURVEY UNDER RESTRICTIVE CONDITIONS IMPOSED. PROVIDE NAME OF SSA OFFICIAL WHO WILL PARTICIPATE. PROVIDE SHORT STATEMENT RE BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF SURVEY TO INCLUDE IN INVITATION LETTERS. IF SSA WISHES, EMBASSY IS PREPARED TO REPRODUCE INVITATION LETTERS AND SET UP SCHEDULE OF INTERVIEWS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL OF SSA OFFICER. WE ANTICIPATE THAT FIRST INTERVIEW CAN BE SCHEDULED WITHIN FOUR WEEKS OF RECEIPT OF INFO REQUESTED ABOVE. SSA COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
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